

City of Durham & CASA

Joint Media Advisory

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Durham Hosts U.S. Congressman at Denson Apartments for Veterans

Congressman Price Tours Award-Winning Community for Homeless Veterans

DURHAM, N.C. – CASA's <u>Denson Apartments for Veterans</u> hosted <u>U.S. Congressman David E.</u>

<u>Price</u> earlier today as he toured Durham's award-winning affordable housing community for homeless veterans.

The <u>Denson Apartments for Veterans</u> is the first permanent supportive housing in Durham for veterans who are homeless and live with disabilities. The first phase of the complex included 11 apartments with rent set at 30 percent of the tenant's income and includes all utilities.

The Denson Apartments for Veterans was developed by <u>CASA</u>, non-profit affordable housing developer and property manager based in the Triangle, in partnership with the <u>City of Durham Community Development Department</u>, <u>The Home Depot Foundation</u>, <u>U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency</u>

(NCHFA), with construction financing from the <u>State Employees Credit Union</u> and additional community support.

Congressman Price toured the finished apartments as well as the second phase now under construction since he currently serves on the House Appropriations Committee and serves as the Ranking Democrat on the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Subcommittee, which oversees funding for the Departments of Transportation and Housing and Urban Development (HUD). HUD allocated HOME dollars that substantially supported Denson project. He is also a member of the Appropriations Subcommittees responsible for homeland security, military construction, and veterans' affairs appropriations.

Congressman Price was joined by Mayor William V. "Bill" Bell and CASA Chief Executive Officer Debra King at today's site visit. The Denson Apartments for Veterans is already home to 11 veterans who moved into the first phase of construction when it was completed in November 2014. The second building, now under construction and expected to open in the summer of 2016, will include 12 one-bedroom, one-bath apartments designated for homeless veterans who live with disabilities.

"With the construction of this community, CASA will have the opportunity to end homelessness for 12 more veterans in Durham," said CASA Chief Executive Officer Debra King. "These men and women were there for us, and now it is time for us to be there for them. We're very excited to add more affordable options to the Triangle community and to help improve the lives of the veterans who live here."

The community partnership to create these apartments has won two awards in recent months for its efforts to help homeless veterans. In January 2016, the community was recognized by the National Community Development Association with a <u>2016 Audrey Nelson award</u>. In October 2015, the project also won the NCHFA <u>2015 Housing North Carolina award</u>.

For more information about CASA's <u>Denson Apartments for Veterans</u>, contact CASA Housing Developer <u>Jess Brandes</u> at (919) 307-3429.

<u>Photograph Caption</u>: U.S. Congressman David Price is joined by City of Durham Mayor William V. "Bill" Bell, CASA CEO Debra King, and others for a tour of Denson Apartments for Veterans, the first permanent supportive housing in Durham for homeless veterans.

About the City of Durham Community Development Department

The City of Durham <u>Community Development Department</u> is responsible for coordinating the City's housing resources and various housing assistance programs as well as promoting affordable housing by working with investors and community housing development organizations. The department also administers the City's entitlement programs from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development. Guided by the City's <u>Strategic Plan</u>, the department helps to ensure that the City has thriving, livable neighborhoods by enhancing housing quality and affordability for Durham residents.

About CASA

<u>CASA</u> is a non-profit housing provider whose mission is to develop and manage affordable housing, providing opportunities for successful living. Since 1992, CASA has focused on building and managing affordable housing for extremely low-income families and individuals, in particular veterans and people with disabilities. CASA manages more than 400 affordable apartments and homes in Wake, Durham, and Orange counties.

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